(b) if so, what are the details of the new policy;

(c) what is the annual quantity and value of all grades of steel and special steel alloys imported;

(d) what are the measures taken to make self-reliant in steel and steel alloy requirements; and

(e) whether any special measures have been taken to substitute the import through change in steel policy?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Government are reviewing the strategy for increasing steel producing capacity in the country. No change in the policy on steel distribution is contemplated at present.

(c) According to the last published data of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, during the year 1984-85, nearly 1.6 million tonnes of steel valued at Rs. 687 crores were imported.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made to increase indigenous production of steel by increasing capacity utilisation, reorienting product-mix to match demand and increasing steel making capacity by modernising existing steel plants and expanding their present capacity:

Price of pulses

1520. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses have risen in the open market to the extent that they have become beyond the reach of a common man;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to import pulses and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Of late, there has been some increase in the prices of pulses.

(b) The main reason for the rise in the prices of pulses is that production of pulses has been more or less stagnant over the last several years.

(c) Pulses are already allowed to be imported to augment domestic supply.

Implementation of Consumers' Protection Act

1521. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the Consumers' Protection Act has been implemented by various States;

(b) whether the Union Government have issued any instructions to the States regarding implementation of the Consumers' Protection Act;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure early implementation of the Consumers' Protection Act throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (d) The provisions of Consumer Protection Act have been brought into force in all States and UTs except J & K. State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised from time to time to take time-bound measures to establish statutory institutions envisaged under the Consumer Protection Act. For this purpose, a Conference of the State Food Ministers and senior officers was held on 20 February

1987. The matter has since been pursued vigorously with the States and UTs. According to information available, Consumer Protection Councils have been set up by the Governments of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Union Territory Administrations of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh. The progress made by the States and UTs was reviewed in the Conference of the State Food Ministers on the 25th July, 1987. The Conference concluded that States and UTs will take time-bound administrative measures to set up the statutory institution conceived in the Act. Actions taken in this regard by the States and UTs are being co-ordinated and monitored closely.

N.C.C.F. debarred from import licence

1522. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCCF had been debarred on 24th January, 1985 by JCCI and E(CLA) New Delhi for 5 licensing years from importing any goods because of misuse of import Licence worth Rs. one crore for the import and distribution of Dry-fruits in consumer packs of 1 Kg. and 2 Kgs.;

(b) whether the then Manager (West) Bombay of NCCF had confessed before the DCC (I&E) his responsibility for breach of licence conditions and for incurring charges of Rs. 2 per kg. for cold-storage of imported blue almonds; and

(c) if so, what Departmental action has been taken against this officer for bringing the NCCF under gross disrepute of being debarred for imports in such a manner?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Officer has been suspended. A departmental enquiry against him is in progress.

Instructions to circle offices of Food and Civil Supplies Department

1523. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to instruct all the circle offices of the Food and Civil Supplies Department in the Union Territory of Delhi to display on their Notice Boards the details of all the particulars required to be given by the consumer for getting a new Ration-Card so that the ill-practice of taking bribes, in which some anti-social elements are indulging ignoring the interest of the consumers, may be eradicated;

(b) if so, by when such instructions are likely to be issued along with the details thereof;

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to lay the information on the Table of the House and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The Delhi Administration has already issued instructions on 10-4-87 asking Circle Food and Supplies Officers to get the requirements for issue of consumer cards displayed on notice boards to be kept at conspicuous places in their offices.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.